

**Folder 2:
Prouty,
Paul H.
(Sitka and
Palmer)
1941-1942**

Tacoma, Wash.
April 8th

Dear Dr. King -

see letter attached

The schedule has
been followed with blessing.
Trunks are checked, and
all is in readiness for sailing in
about 4 hours.

My hospital experience also
is proving very beneficial.

Have arranged to meet
Bingle in Seward.

I did not however find
it possible to do anything for
Lealie Yaw. Really I think I
would probably have been less
helpful had I tried to be an
intermediary, than if they thrust
their own cultivation. I was in
fact too ill to have done much, so
did not wire him, or bother the architect.

The \$125⁰⁰ is ample and I thank
you sincerely for it -
will write Lealie my regrets.
In faith - Yours,
Paul D. Prouty

Apr. 21 '41

Dear Dr. King;

The first week for me has ended and a new one begun on the Sabbath, in Matanuska valley.

To say I am thrilled is trite, but true and mild. I have never felt more that I was where I belonged than during the Sunday school class period, the sermon for Juniors, the morning worship in Palmer, or the evening Vesper in Eklutna. At the latter point a hundred or more native young people from the gov't school, High school students, hung on every word of song and service.

The work done here by the missionary Mr. Bingle, and his staff, with the support given them by the Board of National Missions, definitely provides the core of existence for hundreds and hundreds of people. It is their oil of joy.

The church and church-school officers are giving me very helpful cooperation as I undertake substituting for their beloved pastor, Mr. Bingle.

I shall soon write you more in detail.

Grateful to be here,

Sincerely,

Paul H. Prouty

Palmer, Alaska.
June 5th '41

Dear Dr. King;

First of all, let me tell you how your last bulletin has helped me. Especially was the suggested hour for devotions a definite gain. New construction is so prevalent here that a colloquial illustration best shows what I mean. In the department of engineering, where the maps are made and the goals set for our Spiritual conquests these devotions are indispensable. I am sincerely grateful for all that bulletin. The hour 8---9 A.M. (1--2 P.M. in New York) is our hour in this longitude, and it is my prize hour, I see good result from it daily.

The plan for the promotion-of-use of the Bible is working beautifully. There is a handbook (Halley's) that Alfred E. Barrows, Uncle Billy's brother who is pastor of Eastern Pres'n, Wash. D.C., recommends highly. I have used it here in Palmer as a sesame to Bible promotion and it is doing well enough that the Worship and Order committee voted to order it in a pool.

Volunteers, (capable newcomers) have offered to unite with the church. A communion service has been arranged by the Session for the last Sunday in June. The way is clear diplomatically, and ethically, as well as lawfully, for us to receive them in the absence of the pastor. Boyd Cubbage, of Anchorage, has moderated a meeting of Session and the Council and given the instructions for the call. Three times in a month and a half he has visited us and been indeed helpful. I have visited him twice. I believe he is doing a fine job in Anchorage. Those swiftly building defense projects are tense spots. Boom is the bubble that must be kept from bursting. He took me to visit Chaplain Mc.Bride, the man who as a missionary-pastor built the work, the church and manse (former) in Anchorage. To meet such oldtimers is a rare and a high privilege.

But let me share a personal thrill with you. You know my great joy in Young Peoples conferences, how I believe that God Who dwells not in temples made with hands does dwell more intimately near to impressionable seekers in our out-door conferences. Nearly twenty years ago I assisted two delegates to reach one of Montana's early conferences. My interest in conferences was aroused from the results shown in their personality development.

Imagine my surprise to learn in Juneau, on the way here, that one of those two delegates is now in Matanuska

Valley ! . Imagine further, my joy when I arrived and inquired of Mr. Bingle about her and he replied, "Yes, you are to be aguest in that home tonight!" . That girl, since married, is now a mother of four boys. During the evening visit af ter the boys had remained up a long while and were more than ready for bed, they still awaited till their mother could ascend the stairs with them and say with each individually, their good-night prayers. Do conferences pay ? . She works in the Ladies Aid and in other church activities, and in community enterprises, happy in doing so.

I'm very glad and thankful Dr. King, that you sent me to Alaska.

The information that the Wagner house in Juneau will be ready Sept. 1st reached me, and am also indebted for that good favor.

With sincere fraternity,

Paul H. Prouty

Supplementary Sheet-- Report, August 16 '41.
(Three photos enclosed)

Pardon the Alaskan please, if he or she speaks with seeming over-enthusiasm, or seems to exaggerate or overstate. Their land and its way of life abounds in contrast and paradox. Just in the very places where many residents of Alaska might enjoy the abundance about them, they are stalled in the mire of conditions, and even the bright days and sometimes-gorgeous Nothern-light nights fail to raise them to the power of using their God-given resources. Hence the seeming contradiction, when immense resources and the splendid use some make of them, is described, as opposed by the desperate lack being suffered by many in the midst of plenty.

You find enclosed the picture of Louise Stickman, looking through the screened windows of the tuberculosis ward in the Palmer hospital. In passing this ward which occupies one entire wing of the hospital, one day I noted the bright intelligent face of Louise as she spoke to passing friends. Friends made through her window. None could be admitted to the dangerously contagious ward. I became acquainted with her and as she was about the age of my High school^{group} in Sunday school we took an interest in her and spoke of her being in our group when she should become cured. She accepted that hope with great enthusiasm. During every conversation as we took her magazines and Church school papers her interest and joy became stronger. It seemed she should begin her Bible reading and Christian life purpose from where

she was, in her hospital room, of necessity shared with another tuberculosis case, incurable. So I secured a Testament for her. Had taken pains to find one with self-pronouncing features and I approached her window for the first Bible lesson, given through the screen. I explained the first four books as being about Jesus life, then suggested she read the fourth book, the book of John, after having shown the page of keys to pronunciation. Then I raised the screen to pass in the Testament and she said, "Mr. Prouty I CAN'T READ. Yes the surprises in Alaska may be shocking as well as thrilling. Surely it is a rich field for God's message of mercy and forgiveness and righteousness. While much is being done, there is an indescribable amount yet to do. Christian education along with absent secular education in many cases, hospitals and sanitariums, individual home and community leadership training, are sorely needed to develop and make secure the vast resource of the Creator's Alaskan blessing.

A picture of the Palmer church and the busy-summer transportation system shows two school busses and several autos. These come crowded with children for graded, and well taught classes.

The third picture is of the home of a newly wedded couple. The husband is the office manager for the large cooperative organization in the settlement. He was, with three other adults, baptized on a recent Sabbath and with his earnest bride is looking forward to a better living and enlarged horizon under the Holy Spirit's guidance. Two children were also baptized that day and three others came into the church by transfer of membership, and reaffirmation of faith.



May 1941

A Matanuska valley - Alaska, home.

This mother, was a conference delegate
in Presbyterian summer conference in
Montana. When she found herself in

Alaska with her four boys she
kept the Christian traditions and faith
and strongly supports the church
work in Palmer.

Her husband
operates the big machines that clear
the land of stumps.

Paul H. Prouty

The four boys are her sons.

Photograph : A family and their home in Matanuska
Valley 5/41

the mother was a strong supporter of
the Palmer Church

Paul H. Prouty

Dear Paul:

I like your idea here,
suggest you submit
it to Everett for
his reactions.

L.G.

#1000

S.J.S.
Sitka,

the 25th,
Nov. '41

Rev. Mr. E.B. King, D.D.
Sec'y for Alaska,
Board of National Missions;

Dear Everett:

Two things this busy day, sandwiched among many other similar ones, for us both.

First, Leslie Yaw mentions that Jan. 1st should be the time for separation between the construction budget and the maintenance fund for the operation of the boat. I await your pleasure on the establishment of the operating budget.

Second, the matter of definite instruction from a source of authority concerning care, cleanliness and safety in operation for the boat. This is necessary I believe, the conviction born during some weeks of contact with and observation of Alaskan boat handling. Leslie has attached a note giving his slant on it.

If you wished to frame something of the attached sort to be installed in the Pilot House I would welcome it. It ought to have weighty signature it seems to me, also. None-the-less than your own.

With all high regard,

Paul

*Am serving the pulpit this month = Kirk
a Sunday class I and a liquor combat group =
putting pipe together on the Pinetown Hall = and
pressing for positive co-ordination so that the
boat goes in the water Dec. 3rd = Had some
pictures for your publicity made last night in*

TO BE POSTED IN THE PILOT HOUSE.

The Princeton-Hall is not an ordinary boat.

The prayer-inspired and consecrated labors of men and women and their money have put it afloat to do more by far than is expected of ordinary vessels.

This does not mean more in the nature of risk but more in the means toward safety.

Its whole mission is to exemplify and teach safety and cleanliness in all things. To minister salvation to men.

Its handlers must subdue their pride in the spectacular, their pride must be in safety.

They will dock and sail more carefully than others dock and sail. They will seek no reputation or notoriety for any skill save that of extreme caution and care.

For this ship to have docked and undocked unnumbered times, and to have completed countless voyages without a single smash of rail, splintering of wood, or loss of life, is not too high a goal to set.

It is not too much to ask all its pilots and masters to ascribe to this purpose.

P. H. was dedicated to service of god
Sunday September 21, 1941 - ~~the must~~
~~always~~ ~~said~~ ~~true~~ ~~to~~ ~~this~~ ~~Holy~~ ~~Trust~~ - Therefore
these following rules shall be observed!

(1) -

Sitka, the 22nd
Dec. 1941.

Rev. Mr. Everett B. King, D.D.
Sec'y for Unit S.S. Missions & Alaska.
Board of National Missions;

Dear Everett:

Because there is an anticipation of possible hostility things of late around Sitka have been different. So much difference in fact is in effect that correspondence suffers.

There are rigid rules about blackouts and boat movements. No boat is allowed to move without Navy permission. Every pier and passage-to-piers is guarded by fully armed steel helmeted soldiers. Even the postoffice is guarded. Seagoing vessels are having new coats of paint put on. Grim indeed is the waterfront demeanor.

Have enjoyed the recent Sunday School Pioneer stories of Ralph Hall's summer conferences and the Ranchmens camp meeting. The share Everett King played in these vital leadership-selection and training posts cannot be casually dismissed or easily measured. His Spirit-seeking counsel and message and faith guided hand energizes and leavens the fellowship and atmosphere of the whole scene.

The check for maintenance of the Princeton-Hall has been mailed for deposit to the First National Bank of Juneau. When the deposit slip comes I will forward it to you immediately. The sudden rush of war action has cut our boat force doing carpentry to ribbons. Andrew Hope has not been aboard for work since the war was declared. He is directing some sort of camouflage work. George Howard likewise is compelled to answer emergency calls. Verne & I and the boys are carrying on slowly but in good order. With the war in motion it is better that our boat be here than tied up in some out of the way place. If it is requisitioned for war service the work of the Red Cross or hospital tending is in the minds of the officials. Our bunk capacity is ideal for that endeavor.

I asked for a conference with the members of Presbytery's committee on Nat. Missions resident in Sitka, plus Verne Swanson, -present, Frank Price, Leslie Yaw, Verne S. & myself. We counsellad about the matter of personnel for the Princeton-Hall. Mr. Price represented the viewpoint of the Nativës.

First, fees to be charged. Should Church enterprises such as Presbytery delegations, summer conferences, students for Sheldon Jackson, come under the same category as passengers for pay under the stipulation of Presbytery? The decision was, No. The precedent is, delegations to conference & Presbytery or service to churches have been charged cost only. That is, the fuel and oil consumption of the boat and meals would be pro-rated among those traveling. For students, approximately one-third regular boat fare has been charged making that rate much cheaper for them than if they came on commercial boats. Hence to Klawock students the fare to Sitka would be \$6, Hydaburg \$7, Ketchikan \$8. etc.

Second, a point raised persistently by Natives, is there to be a two or three man crew? Meaning, will there be Missionary (1) and Navigator-Captain (2) plus occasional hired cook, (3)

or,

Missionary (1) Captain (2) and deckhand (3) no cook.

I stated to the group that all through my Alaskan experience there

Have just learned that Verne is also member of N. M. Committee.

will run the sense and realization of the sacrifices believing givers are making for our progress. I shall be a conserver of their largess in so far as I know how.

Mr. Price was for three men in the crew. Mr. Yaw leaned in that direction, "if it could be financed". Mr. Swanson & I confessed that we only expected finances to permit the two-man arrangement with occasional help for long runs with large groups.

Third, names of persons. Two only, beside Verne and me. Philip Faulkner, who is given a good word and recommendation by several including Verne S. and Dick Nelson. He would be capable of safe Captaincy apparently. Philip does not prefer the job but says he could be drafted. Salary required, at least \$1800. per year, plus a dollar per day food allowance. He has a family.

Andrew Wanamaker, now single, his wife having passed away since you were here. We are not sure he can be secured but probably so at less salary to begin than Faulkner. All feel that with training as to the particular P-H boat (he has much experience with others) and its parts he would render excellent service. And too he would fill the Natives hope for one of their own on the boat. If he should be used, the plan would be to ask him to come aboard immediately, with Swanson and me and be ready for full responsibility when Swanson leaves. He is beyond draft age. Faulkner may be requisitioned any time for scouting service it appears, he is about 35.

I recommend for first plan, that we make overture to Andrew Wanamaker to come aboard in January to act as third man while Verne Swanson remains. When Verne goes, ~~Andrew would succeed to the Navigator-Captain task~~ and we could hire occasional cook or deck service as we required. If Andrew cannot accept then draft Philip Faulkner and set up as a precedent the three man policy, Missionary (1) Captain (2) Deckhand (3)

You pay the bills, so what is your thought, which is our law?

It has to be part of our consideration, that we are at war, with young reliable boat men apt to be demanded for service at any time by the government.

While Andrew would be third man he should be satisfied with \$75 per month with board. Later he should not expect more than \$125.

With prayerful regard for your New Year

Sincerely,

Paul

P.S. Leslie is going to send a word too.

I would be willing to take full responsibility with Andrew as first assistant

Dear Paul,

I approve of your plan to take Andrew Wanamaker aboard the Punahoa - Hall with you and Swanson - altho' I am sure it would be best to have 3 men on crew - our budget will not stand up under the load - \$ — (fill in) is the amt in the budget for your helpers on the

boat - There is no chance to increase the amt ~~now~~ for the rest of the church year - I believe you and Andrew can handle the work with special help on long runs.

Also am willing to accept the fee charge for students - However, that fee will not hold for other passengers - you should charge others the regular amount - Our boat must not be known as a "low-rate" ship - I mean others outside our church - Let the cost basis prevail for all church delegates for Presbytery and church service - I think the church in Alaska has a right to expect this -

If our boat is needed for Red Cross then it will be used for that -

We are in for a hard war with dark days ahead - What a great opportunity for Christian service - we all need to re-
Consecrate our selves to the task cordially,

December 30, 1941

AIRMAIL

Rev. Mr. Paul H. Prouty
Sitka, Alaska

Dear Paul:

I approve of your plan to take Andrew Wanamaker aboard the Princeton-Hall with you and Swanson. Although I am sure it would be best to have three men on the crew, our budget will not stand up under the load. \$900. is the amount in the budget for your helper on the boat. There is no chance to increase the amount for the rest of the church year. I believe you and Andrew can handle the work with special help on long runs.

I also am willing to accept the fee charge for students. However, that fee will not hold for other passengers. You should charge others the regular amount. Our boat must not be known as a "Cut-rate" ship. I mean others, outside our Church. Let the cost basis prevail for all Church delegates for Presbytery and Church services. I think the Church in Alaska has a right to expect this.

If our boat is needed for Red Cross, then it will be used for that.

We are in for a hard war with dark days ahead. What a great opportunity for Christian service! We all need to reconsecrate ourselves to the task.

Cordially yours,

EBK:McE

Penned at Fort Worth

Sheldon Jackson School
Sitka, Feb. 17 '42

Rev. Mr. Everett B. King, D.D.,
Sec'y for Alaska;
Board of National Missions:

*Return
may 1 45*

Dear Dr. King;

Your air letter reached me ten and one-half days after it was mailed. Bad weather I suppose. I much appreciate your kindness in giving my salary a boost. It will help a lot and I hope yield faithful fruits.

To answer your questions:

What branch of the government took over the P-H boat ?

The Maritime Commission requisitioned her. Com'd'r Tate U.S.N. is that Commission's representative here in S.E. Alaska. He is headquartered at Sitka Naval base. To Mr. Yaw, Mr. Swanson and myself whom he received in his office very cordially he explained the requisition process. (After having been in possession of the boat over night) The days of December and January were filled with calmness on the surface, because we were almost paralyzed with the shock of suddenness underneath. Preparations for defense against modern air war is such an all-out use of energy it makes its victims numb to other things. We might have helped the Princeton-Hall to be spared had we known all, but those days were fraught with naught but frantic planning for defense. We did not feel that we would be definitely attacked, but what if we should? We did not dare repeat Pearl Harbor. And today the increased seriousness of the S.W. Pacific situation may mean that Alaska will become more important. One guess is as good as another.

By what method was the boat taken over ?

Commander Tate as Maritime Commissioner appointed a local committee to requisition and appraise such vessels as they deemed suited to the Navy purpose. Its members, three. The mayor of Sitka (Conway) the agent for Northland Steamship Co (Goddard) and the U.S. Customs Collector (Bolshannon). There was no prior hint of their forthcoming action. Two Naval Officers with papers of full authority accompanied by the U.S. Customs Collector Bolshannon appeared at Mr. Yaw's home on Sunday afternoon Jan. 4th and within ten minutes had Mr. Yaw, V. Swanson and myself on the way to the dock to begin inventory. Another group took Dick Nelson to bring the S.J. S. While we began inventory on the Princeton-Hall crews were untying her mooring lines making ready to take her to the Naval base. We were granted an interview set for the following day at which time it was explained there would be the above named commission to receive our complete inventory and fix a price --if we, or rather the owners, the Board of N.M. should not be satisfied with the price they could appeal to a higher commission in Washington. We have followed through their requirements, Mr. Yaw being required to use his power of attorney which Mr. Bolshannon knew he possessed. Said power of attorney being on file with Mr. Bolshannon, from some former occasion before war began. The P-H was under construction and re-design in the Navy yard till Feb. 10. It had then completed trials and began schedule trips. Our inventories had been completed and forwarded to Bremerton, Wash.

from whence the check will be issued I understand. The total came to \$34,367.00 plus .

Leslie assembled Andrew Hope, V. Swanson, Mr. Stewart and me, and with his records we made inventory. Labor was included for the Sheldon Jackson student help, for Verne and me and for the machine shop, together with trucking, insurance, and office overhead. A very fair figure it seemed to us.

There are lots of things said of course which may never come to pass, such is war and rumors of war, however Commander Tate thought that after the war is over we could bid the P.H. in for probably \$15,000.00.

For what purpose is the boat being used?

A personnel supply ship to ^{visit} patrol bases in S.E. Alaska. Taking relief to patrol forces in isolated places and serving as their medical ship.

She will be armed for self defense.

Did the gov't give papers ----- etc.?

No, nothing more than preliminary sheets indicating receipt of the vessel. The check will be the first important document.

Did the gov't take full equipment?

Yes all except the following which is stored in my room here in the small boys dormitory, S.J.S.

Songbooks, Bibles, Large Pulpit Bible, Pillows, sheets, First Aid equipment including stretcher, Flags used at launching, Hand Towels and dish towels. An exact count will be made and filed.

Is the Princeton Hall completed so far as Builders Risk Insurance may be concerned?

To all practical purposes it may be assumed that the Princeton Hall passed from under the Board's responsibility when it was taken over Jan. 4th. As above stated it is now complete and in service.

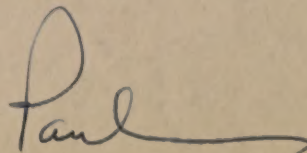
Now that the P-H is in patriotic service, and even though she was probably unnecessarily taken, it would in consideration of Navy official gestures of interest in Sheldon Jackson School, be unwise at the present to file protest in official Washington. For instance, the Navy moved Verne Swanson and all his accumulation for his own ship, to Hydaburg, took him Feb, 15th, without cost. With the war taking serious turn in the S.W. Pacific, Alaska may yet be a thoroughfare and Sheldon Jackson school need Navy support.

A little later we probably ^{could} with less challenge to our patriotism ask for a soon-return-as-possible of our boat.

Leslie hopes to build a boat to replace the S.J.S., using funds he will receive from the S.J.S. requisitioning. And with others of Presbytery hopes for the chartering for a year of a boat to do as much as possible of the Presbytery's work. Correspondence pertaining to the latter has gone to you and I await your reply.

With all best regards,

Sincerely,



February 24, 1942

AIRMAIL

Rev. Paul H. Prouty
Sheldon Jackson School
Sitka, Alaska

Dear Paul:

I have your airmail letter of February 17 in which you gave very clear and satisfactory answers to my questions relative to the Princeton-Hall boat. I am going to make some inquiries relative to the possibility of recovering the boat but of course will guard against any possibility of misunderstanding.

In my last letter to you I told you it would be possible for you to remain in Alaska, but things are happening so quick and fast that I find now it is not going to be possible for you to continue your stay there. Within the next few weeks we are going to be greatly in need of a Sunday school missionary in Seattle Presbytery. Our present missionary, Rev. William Howell, is going to be engaged in war work. This leaves a vacancy in a very important place. I am therefore asking that you plan to return to take over this vacancy.

I would like for you to be on the field as soon as possible--not later than March 15. Of course transportation may have something to do with the plans but this is an urgent request and I trust you will arrange to return to Seattle as soon as possible. You may stay on this field until we know what is in the future. I shall keep you in mind and try to work things out so that when an opportune time presents itself you may return to Alaska to take over the work you have started. I am sorry it is necessary to call you in, but there seems to be no alternative. Be sure that you clear up all the ragged edges of the Princeton-Hall matter before you leave.

You will probably need some expense money. I suggest that you use the rent money you have been collecting from the Juneau manse. I think it will be just as well for you to continue to collect this money and send it in to us. It will be best for you to clear the bank account you have under this name.

Cordially yours,

EBK:DDH

